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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/463,681	01/31/2000	JOACHIM BLUM	PM266043	6649

909 7590 05/17/2002
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EXAMINER

MAYEKAR, KISHOR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1741

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/463,681	Applicant(s) J. Blum et al.
	Examiner Kishor Mayekar	Art Unit 1741

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 11, 2002

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SOLTWEDEL et al. (5,624,978) in view of MATSUO et al. (5,190,830), both references cited in the last Office action, and the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary in the definition of the term "plastic". SOLTWEDEL's invention is directed to an aqueous coating composition which renders a metallic substrate capable of severe drawing without sacrificing corrosion protection or electrocoability (emphasis added). SOLTWEDEL discloses that the steps of applying the coating composition on the metallic substrate utilizing known coil coating process and by any other known techniques to form a basecoat and stoving the basecoat (col. 11, lines 11-31) and the

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basecoat has conductive properties imparted by conductive pigments in the coating composition (col. 10, lines 40-48). SOLTWEDEL also discloses that the basecoated substrate can then be conventionally coated or electrocoated with weldable or non-weldable primer coatings and may be followed by the application of decorative topcoats (see abstract; Examples 1 and 2; col. 14, lines 51-61). The difference between SOLTWEDEL and the above claims is that SOLTWEDEL does not detail the materials of the topcoats. MATSUO shows the use of polyester-melamine resins as the materials for the topcoats (col. 6, lines 47-57) after the electrocoat which are thermoplastic resins (see col. 15, lines 16-19 in SOLTWEDEL). The dictionary defines "plastic" as "any of numerous organic synthetic or processed materials that are mostly thermoplastic or thermosetting polymers of high molecular weight and that can be made into objects, films, or filaments". The subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified SOLTWEDEL's teachings as suggested by MATSUO and the dictionary because the selection and the use of thermoplastic or thermosetting polymers as materials in the topcoats would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

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Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 3/11/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive in view of the new ground rejection as set forth in the paragraph above.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory

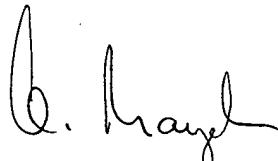
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period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kishor Mayekar whose telephone number is (703) 308-0477. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathryn Gorgos, can be reached on (703) 308-3328. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9310 (non-after finals) or 872-9311 (after final).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



Kishor Mayekar
Primary Examiner
Group 1700

KM

May 16, 2002